Cotswold Archaeology

Land South of the A379
Newcourt
Exeter

Archaeological Evaluation

for
IKEA Ltd

CA Project: 880091
CA Report: 16176

April 2016

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land south of the A379
Location:	Newcourt, Exeter
NGR:	SX 9573 9077
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	22 February–2 March 2016
Planning Reference:	13/4525/01
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter (artefacts) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive)
Site Code:	IKEA 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2016 on land south of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter. A total of 22 trenches was excavated.

The evaluation recorded a Middle Bronze Age ditch, which cut an earlier pit. Four further undated pits may also have been prehistoric in date. Four post-medieval pits/modern were also recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February and March 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for IKEA Ltd on land south of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter (centred on NGR: SX 9573 9077; Fig. 1).

1.2 Outline planning consent for the erection of a retail store and ancillary facilities, plus associated access, car parking, and landscaping, has been granted by Exeter City Council (ECC; the local planning authority), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (planning ref: 13/4525/01; condition 5). The scope of this evaluation was defined subsequently in discussions with Andrew Pye, Exeter City Council Principal Project Manager (Heritage) (ECCPPMH).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by the ECCPPMH. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by the ECCPPMH, including a site visit on 26 February 2016.

The site

1.4 The proposed development site is approximately 6.5ha in area. It is bounded to the north by the A379; to the east by a looped slip road off the A379, with Old Rydon Close beyond; to the south by a recent housing development; and to the west by the recently-constructed Newcourt Way. The site currently comprises two fields. The eastern field is open grassland; the western field was until recently occupied by several soil bunds (presumably material displaced during the construction of Newcourt Way) but is currently open scrubland. Part of Newcourt Way and a roundabout are also within the site's south-western corner.

1.5 The western area of the site lies on higher ground at *c*. 40m AOD, sloping down to c. 25m AOD in the east.

1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Dawlish Sandstone Formation of the Permian Period, with a small area of Permian Heavitree Breccia Formation recorded in the north-western corner of the site. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed development site and its immediate environs have been the previous subjects of several archaeological investigations, comprising:

- a desk-based heritage assessment of the present site (JMHS 2006a);
- two geophysical surveys, covering the present site and the areas to the immediate south and west (Stratascan 2006a and 2006b);
- three archaeological evaluations: one carried out along the line of Newcourt Way prior to its construction and two across the fields to the south and west of the present site (JMHS 2006b, 2007a and 2007b); and
- an archaeological excavation conducted along the corridor of Newcourt Way prior to its construction (Gilbert 2012; JMHS 2010), and an as-yet unpublished archaeological excavation to the south of the site (AC Archaeology, pers. comm 2013, cited in CA 2013).

2.2 The results of these investigations were synthesised by a heritage statement (CA 2013), a summary of which forms the basis of this section. Figure 2 shows the locations of some of the previously-recorded archaeological features discussed below.

Mesolithic (10,000 BC–4000 BC)

2.3 A small number of unstratified Mesolithic flint tools were recovered during the archaeological works in advance of Newcourt Way, but there is little other evidence for Mesolithic activity in the wider area of the site.

Neolithic (4000 BC–2400 BC)

2.4 There is limited evidence for Neolithic activity in the area, although the archaeological excavations to the south of the current site recorded a Neolithic ditch, and archaeological works associated with the construction of a Tesco supermarket *c*. 300m north-west of the present site identified late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits. Additionally, unstratified Neolithic flint tools were recovered during the archaeological works in advance of Newcourt Way.

Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)

2.5 A series of Bronze Age pits and ring ditches and an oval enclosure were recorded during the archaeological works at the Tesco site.

2.6 The archaeological works in advance of Newcourt Way recorded a substantial trapezoidal enclosure of probable early Bronze Age date, with the remains of a roundhouse present within the enclosure (shown in brown on Figure 2). A possible outer enclosure was also identified (shown in green on Figure 2), as were six possible structures (shown in blue on Figure 2), all of which are thought to have been located in the area of the outer enclosure. These structures were circular (possibly representing huts), triangular and rectangular in plan. Evidence for a contemporary field system was also recorded.

Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43)

2.7 The works to the south of the site recorded an Iron Age roundhouse and associated features (marked in purple on Figure 2).

Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.8 Roman activity in the area was focused around the road leading from Exeter to the port at Topsham (*c*. 1.5km south of the present site). No Roman features were identified during the archaeological works adjacent to the site.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066), medieval (1066–1539), post-medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)

2.9 The area of the site appears to have remained in agricultural use throughout these periods.

Undated

2.10 The geophysical surveys conducted within the site recorded a series of disjointed linear anomalies (marked in orange on Figure 2). The alignments of these anomalies do not generally correspond to the known prehistoric features adjacent to the site,

and it was considered that they may represent parts of post-medieval field boundaries or variations within the natural substrate.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide more information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and significance. This data will be used to help determine the need for, and inform the scope of, any further archaeological works at the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 22 trenches (T1–T23, Fig. 3; T12 was not excavated). The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and areas adjacent to known archaeological remains, as well as to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.

4.2 The trenches varied in length between 15m and 50m. All trenches were 1.8m wide. The exceptions were T3, which, due to the depth of compacted overburden in this area, was excavated as two pits (T3A and T3B); and T1 and T11, both of which were expanded (at the request of the ECCPPMH) in order to fully expose archaeological features recorded in those trenches and to test for the presence of adjacent features.

4.3 In addition to the above, there were several changes to the trench plan proposed in the WSI (CA 2016): some trenches were relocated in response to site topographic constraints and services, and additional trenches were excavated in the western field at the request of the ECCPPMH.

4.4 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.

4.5 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological

deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.6 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. Bulk samples were taken from deposits 1106 (fill of ditch 1105, T11; 40 litres) and 1104 (fill of pit 1103, T11; 10 litres). On the advice of the ECCPPMH, these samples are being held until any further archaeological work at the site is completed, after which a review will be made of which (if any) samples merit processing.

4.7 All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.8 CA will make arrangements with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter, for the deposition of the artefact collection, subject to agreement with the legal landowner. Any artefacts that the RAMM does not wish to retain will be offered to the landowner; if not claimed by the landowner, they will be discarded or added to teaching/reference collections.

4.9 The digital archive and scanned images of the primary site archive will be submitted to the appropriate Trusted Digital Repository (the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)).

4.10 A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Figure 3 shows the recorded archaeological features in plan. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds can be found in Appendices A and B, respectively.

General stratigraphy

5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised brown-red/orange silty sand, with frequent bands/patches of stone, gravel and grey-brown silty sand.

Eastern field

5.3 In the eastern field, the natural substrate was generally exposed 0.6m–1m below the present ground level (bpgl), with the trenches in the western part of the field generally deeper than those in the eastern part. The natural substrate in this field was sealed by 0.15m–0.5m of silty sand subsoil. The subsoil was generally overlain by a colluvial layer measuring 0.2m–0.4m in thickness, which was sealed in turn by the topsoil.

Western field

5.4 In the western field, the natural substrate was generally exposed 1.2m–1.5m bpgl (the exception being T6, where the natural lay 0.8m–1m bpgl). T3A/T3B was excavated to a depth of 1.2m bpgl without the natural substrate being revealed.

5.5 The natural substrate in the western field was sealed by 0.15m–0.5m of silty sand subsoil. With the exception of T6, all of the trenches in this field featured a 0.3m–0.6m-thick layer of compacted sandy silt covering the subsoil. This material contained modern waste fragments (e.g. tarmac) and was overlain by 0.15m–0.5m of red-brown sandy silt containing gravel and modern building waste. This silty layer was covered in turn by 0.1m–0.2m of topsoil. Until recently, the western field was occupied by a series of soil bunds, presumably representing material displaced during the construction of the adjacent Newcourt Way. The deep overburden layers recorded in the western field are likely derived from the spreading and compacting of this bund material across the field.

Blank trenches

5.6 Of the 22 evaluation trenches, 13 contained no archaeological features. These were: T2–T5, T7, T9, T15–T17 and T19–T22.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

5.7 Natural substrate 104 was exposed 1m bpgl. Cut into it were oval pits 105 (1.66m wide, 0.55m deep) and 107 (0.68m wide, 0.18m deep), each of which contained single undated fills (106 and 108, respectively). These pits were sealed by subsoil 103.

Trench 6 (Fig. 5)

5.8 Natural substrate 603 was exposed 0.75m bpgl. Cut into it was shallow pit 604 (0.56m wide, 0.1m deep), which contained a single undated fill (605). Pit 604 was sealed by subsoil 602.

Trench 11 (Fig. 6)

5.9 Natural substrate 1102 was exposed 1m bpgl and was cut by two archaeological features.

5.10 Pit 1103 was 0.78m deep and survived to 1.46m in width. It contained a single undated fill (1104). Pit 1103 was cut by north-east/south-west-aligned ditch 1105. This ditch was 0.88m deep and up to 1.56m wide, with a single silty fill (1106) from which a total of 183 sherds of pottery dating to the Middle Bronze Age was recovered. This ditch corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly.

5.11 Pit 1103 and ditch 1105 were sealed by subsoil 1101.

Trench 18

5.12 Natural substrate 1803 was exposed 1m bpgl. A potential north-west/south-east-aligned feature (1804) was recorded in the centre of the trench. The four undated fills of this feature (1805–1808) were very similar in composition to the natural substrate, and it is considered likely that 1804 represents a band of variation in the natural, rather than an archaeological feature.

Trench 23 (Fig. 7)

5.13 Natural substrate 2304 was exposed 1.3m bpgl. It was cut by oval pit 2306, which was 1.18m wide and 0.24m deep. This pit contained a single undated fill (2305) and was sealed by subsoil 2303.

Trenches 8, 10, 13 and 14

5.14 These trenches each contained single pits (806, 1005, 1304 and 1403). All of these features had been cut through the subsoil, indicating that they are post-medieval or later in date.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 This section presents a brief summary of the artefactual material recovered during the evaluation. For detailed analysis of the artefacts, see Appendix B.

6.2 Artefactual material was recovered from a single deposit only and comprised a total of 183 sherds (1,790g) of pottery recovered from deposit 1106 (fill of ditch 1105, T11). All of this pottery originated from a single Middle Bronze Age vessel, which was apparently deposited substantially intact. Some sherds feature carbonaceous residues and sooting, consistent with use for cooking.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The only securely-dated archaeological feature recorded by the evaluation was ditch 1105 (T11), which contained a substantially complete cooking vessel dating to the Middle Bronze Age (1500 BC–1100 BC). This ditch cut earlier (albeit undated) pit 1103. Four further undated pits in T1, T6 and T23 occupied the same stratigraphic position as the features in T11 (i.e. cut into the natural substrate and sealed by the subsoil), which might indicate that they are also prehistoric in date. All of these features were situated within the western side of the site.

7.2 The archaeological works in advance of Newcourt Way (Gilbert 2012; JMHS 2010; see *Archaeological background*, above), which runs along the western site boundary, recorded an early Bronze Age enclosure and associated roundhouse, as well as six further possible structures and evidence for a field system. It is likely that the archaeological features recorded by the present evaluation represent limited outlying activity associated with the Bronze Age features to the west.

7.3 There were no features clearly associated with the Iron Age activity recorded during previous archaeological works to the south of the evaluation site (AC Archaeology,

pers. comm 2013, cited in CA 2013; see *Archaeological background*, above), although it is possible that some of the undated pits in the western part of the site may have been Iron Age in origin.

7.4 The prehistoric archaeological features in the western part of the site were all sealed by 0.75m (T6) to 1.3m (T23) of overburden layers, some of which apparently represented material redeposited during the construction of the adjacent Newcourt Way.

7.5 The evaluation recorded no archaeological remains in the eastern part of the site except for four post-medieval/modern pits (in T8, T10, T13 and T14).

7.6 Only one archaeological feature was found to correspond to a geophysical anomaly: ditch 1105 (T11). The other anomalies were apparently formed by variations in the natural substrate. None of the pits recorded by the evaluation had been detected by the geophysical survey; this is probably due to their relatively shallow nature and the deep overburden layers in the western part of the site.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Gillard, assisted by George Gandham, Victoria Parsons and Edoardo Vigo. This report was written by Martin Gillard and Derek Evans. The finds reports was written by Henrietta Quinnell. The report illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

9. REFERENCES

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JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2006a *An Archaeological DBA of The Newcourt area-Lower RNSD site and land alongside Old Rydon Lane and the A379, Topsham*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2006b *An Archaeological Excavation in the corridor of the proposed road linking the A379 to Old Rydon Lane, Topsham, Exeter*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2007a *An Archaeological Evaluation of ORLN & Langdon Site, South Exeter*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2007b *An Archaeological Evaluation of ORLN & Langdon Site, South Exeter: addendum*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2010 *An Archaeological Excavation in the corridor of the proposed road linking the A379 to Old Rydon Lane, Topsham, Exeter*

Stratascan 2006a *Newcourt, Exeter, Devon: geophysical survey*

Stratascan 2006b *Land to the south-east of Exeter, between the A379 and Old Rydon Way: geophysical survey*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench no.	Context no.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.2	
1	101	Layer		redeposited material	mid red brown sand silt with gravel			0.5	
1	102	Layer		redeposited material	compact dark red brown sand silt with gravel			0.3	
1	103	Layer		subsoil	mid brown pink silt sand			0.2	
1	104	Layer		natural	mid brown or red pink silt sand				
1	105	Cut		pit	oval pit	2	1.66	0.55	
1	106	Fill	105	fill of pit	light grey brown silt sand			0.55	
1	107	Cut		pit	oval pit	1	0.68	0.18	
1	108	Fill	107	fill of pit	grey brown silt sand			0.18	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.2	
2	201	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown red silt sand with gravel			0.3	
2	202	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown sand silt			0.3	
2	203	Layer		subsoil	mid brown pink silt sand			0.2	
2	204	Layer		natural	mid brown or red pink silt sand				
3A & 3B	300	Layer		topsoil	light red brown sand silt			0.2	
3A & 3B	301	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown silt sand, compact			0.4	
3A & 3B	302	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown red silt sand with gravel			0.2	
3A & 3B	303	Layer		redeposited material	dark brown sand silt, compact			0.4	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.12	
4	401	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown pink silt sand with stone			0.3	
4	402	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown sand silt, compact with gravel			0.6	
4	403	Layer		subsoil	mid brown grey silt sand			0.5	
4	404	Layer		natural	mid grey purple sand silt				
5	500	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.2	
5	501	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown pink silt sand with gravel			0.3	
5	502	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown sand silt, compact with gravel			0.5	
5	503	Layer		subsoil	mid brown pink silt sand			0.3	
5	504	Layer		natural	mid brown pink silt sand with gravel				
6	600	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.3	
6	601	Layer		redeposited material	grey brown sand silt			0.15	
6	602	Layer		subsoil	red brown sand silt			0.37	
6	603	Layer	6	natural	brown red sand silt with gravel				
6	604	Cut		pit	oval pit	0.9	0.56	0.1	
6	605	Fill	604	fill of pit	dark grey brown sand silt			0.1	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	mid brown sand silt			0.4	
7	701	Layer		colluvium	mid pink brown sand silt			0.3	
7	702	Layer		subsoil	mid pink brown silt sand			0.3	
7	703	Layer		natural	red, orange and red brown sand with gravel				
8	801	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sand silt			0.3	
8	802	VOID							
8	803	Layer		colluvium	mid red brown sand silt		1.8	0.35	
8	804	Layer		subsoil	mid red grey silt sand with gravel			0.45	
8	805	Layer		natural	light brown red silt sand with gravel				
8	806	Cut		pit	oval pit	1.87	0.5	0.48	
8	807	Fill	806	fill of pit	light grey brown silt sand			0.48	
9	900	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.25	
9	901	Layer		colluvium	grey brown sand silt			0.2	
9	902	Layer		subsoil	light brown grey sand silt			0.15	
9	903	Layer		subsoil	pink grey silt sand			0.2	
9	904	Layer		natural	brown red silt sand				
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.3	
10	1001	Layer		colluvium	grey brown sand silt			0.2	

Trench no.	Context no.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
10	1002	Layer		subsoil	light brown grey sand silt			0.3	
10	1003	Layer		natural	brown red silt sand				
10	1004	Fill	1005	fill of ditch	grey brown clay silt			0.4	
10	1005	Cut		ditch	steep-sided, narrow cut	2	0.3	0.4	
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.3	
11	1101	Layer		subsoil	grey brown sand silt			0.35 –0.7	
11	1102	Layer		natural	brown red sand silt				
11	1103	Cut		pit	steep-sided oval pit		>1.46	0.78	
11	1104	Fill	1103	fill of pit	brown grey sand silt			0.78	
11	1105	Cut		ditch	steep-sided, flat bottomed ditch	>10	1.56	0.88	
11	1106	Fill	1105	fill of ditch	grey brown sand silt			0.88	MBA
13	1300	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown sand silt			0.3	
13	1301	Layer		subsoil	grey brown sand silt and orange brown silt sand			0.3	
13	1302	Layer		natural	brown orange silt sand and dark orange brown stone				
13	1303	Fill	1304	fill of pit	mixed topsoil and subsoil			0.5	
13	1304	Cut		pit	oval pit tapering to small, rounded base	1	1	0.5	
14	1400	Layer		topsoil	mid orange brown silt sand			0.2	
14	1401	Layer		subsoil	mid orange brown silt sand with gravel			0.5	
14	1402	Layer		natural	light brown orange silt sand with grey white patches				
14	1403	Cut		pit	oval pit with concave base and sides	1.91	0.3	0.9	
14	1404	Fill	1403	lower fill of pit	grey brown silt sand			0.16	
14	1405	Fill	1403	middle fill of pit	brown grey silt sand			0.11	
14	1406	Fill	1403	upper fill of pit	light grey brown silt sand			0.7	
15	1500	Layer		topsoil	dark brown sand silt			0.3	
15	1501	Layer		colluvium	mid red brown sand silt			0.3	
15	1502	Layer		subsoil	mid pink brown silt sand			0.3	
15	1503	Layer		natural	red orange and orange brown sand with gravel				
16	1600	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.15	
16	1601	Layer		colluvium	dark brown sand silt			0.4	
16	1602	Layer		subsoil	light brown silt sand			0.3	
16	1603	Layer		natural	mixed dark and light orange brown silt sand				
17	1700	Layer		topsoil	dark brown sand silt			0.3	
17	1701	Layer		colluvium	mid red brown sand silt			0.3	
17	1702	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown silt sand			0.2	
17	1703	Layer		natural	red orange and red brown sand with gravel				
18	1800	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.15	
18	1801	Layer		redeposited material	grey brown sand silt			0.35	
18	1802	Layer		redeposited material	dark brown grey sand silt, compact with gravel			0.25	
18	1803	Layer		natural	brown red sand silt				
18	1804	Cut		natural variation	band of variation in natural substrate	1.8	2.7	0.55	
18	1805	Fill	1804	natural variation	yellow grey sand silt			0.08	
18	1806	Fill	1804	natural variation	brown grey silt sand			0.44	
18	1807	Fill	1804	natural variation	brown grey silt sand			0.5	
18	1808	Fill	1804	natural variation	brown red sand silt			0.55	
18	1809	Layer		subsoil	red brown sand silt with gravel			0.25	
19	1900	Layer		topsoil	light brown sand silt			0.1	
19	1901	Layer		redeposited material	mid red brown silt sand with gravel			0.3	
19	1902	Layer		redeposited material	mid brown sand silt, compact with gravel			0.4	
19	1903	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown silt sand			0.2	
19	1904	Layer		natural	brown red sand with gravel				
20	2000	Layer		topsoil	dark brown sand silt			0.3	
20	2001	Layer		redeposited material	mid red brown silt sand with gravel			0.3	
20	2002	Layer		redeposited material	dark grey brown sand silt, compact with gravel			0.4	
20	2003	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown silt sand			0.25	
20	2004	Layer		natural	red orange sand with gravel				
21	2100	Layer		topsoil	mid red brown sand silt			0.1	
21	2101	Layer		redeposited material	mid red brown silt sand with gravel			0.4	

Trench no.	Context no.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
21	2102	Layer		redeposited material	dark grey brown sand silt, compact with gravel			0.3	
21	2103	Layer		subsoil	mid red brown silt sand			0.2	
21	2104	Layer		natural	red brown sand with gravel				
22	2200	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown sand silt			0.3	
22	2201	Layer		colluvium	mid brown sand silt			0.2	
22	2202	Layer		subsoil	mid brown silt sand			0.2	
22	2203	Layer		natural	red orange and red brown sand with gravel				
23	2300	Layer		topsoil	red brown sand silt			0.3	
23	2301	Layer		redeposited material	red brown sand silt with gravel			0.35	
23	2302	Layer		redeposited material	dark brown grey sand silt, compact with gravel			0.5	
23	2303	Layer		subsoil	grey brown sand silt mixed with pink brown silt sand			0.4	
23	2304	Layer		natural	orange brown silt sand with gravel and brown purple bands				
23	2305	Fill	2306	fill of pit	mid grey sand silt			0.25	
23	2306	Cut		pit	oval pit with concave base	1.5	1.2	0.25	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

By Henrietta Quinnell

Artefactual material, consisting entirely of prehistoric pottery, was recovered from a single deposit.

Pottery (Middle Bronze Age)

A total of 183 sherds (1,790g) of pottery was recovered from deposit 1106 (fill of ditch 1105, T11). This pottery includes large joining sherds and represents the larger part of a single vessel (0.52 EVEs). Portions of the rim/shoulder and base portions of the vessel are present and it seems likely that the vessel was deposited substantially intact. The sherd surfaces are well preserved and some sherds feature internal carbonaceous residues and (external) sooting, consistent with use for cooking.

The vessel is of jar proportions, with narrowing neck, slightly everted rim (int. diam. 200mm) and well-made, flattened rim top. Decoration is limited to a row of fingernail impressions which, unusually, is discontinuous, being limited to one area of the vessel's neck. The form of this vessel is typical of Middle Bronze Age (1500 BC–1100 BC) Trevisker styles relatively well-known from Devon (Laidlaw and Mepham 1999, Fig. 58; Quinnell 2014, Fig. 2.40). The fabric utilised for this vessel is characterised by common, moderately coarse (1mm–3mm) rock inclusions and sparse quartz and is fired to a patch red-brown/grey. Provisionally, it is identified as of Exeter Volcanic fabric, a type with known Middle Bronze Age associations in the area (ibid.).

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
1106	Exeter volcanic fabric	183	1790	MBA

Table B1: finds concordance

References

Fitzpatrick, A.P., Butterworth, C.A. and Grove, J. 1999 *Prehistoric and Roman sites in East Devon: The A30 Honiton to Exeter Improvement DBFO Scheme, 1996–9*, 2 vols, Salisbury, Wessex Archaeology Report **16**

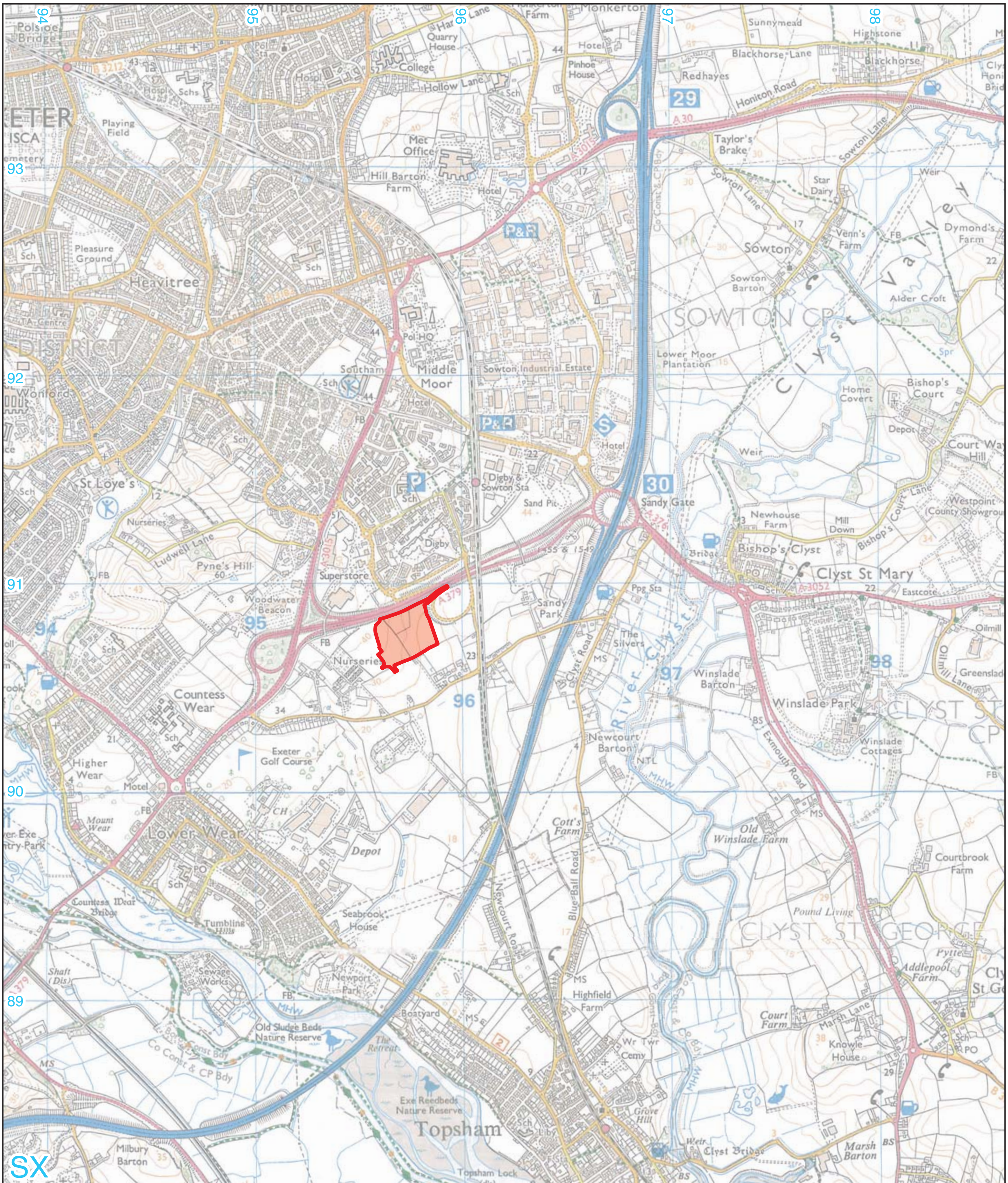
Laidlaw, M. and Mepham, L. 1999 'Pottery', in Fitzpatrick, Butterworth and Grove 1999, 43–51

Joyce, S. and Mudd, A. 2014 *The Archaeology of the South-West Reinforcement Gas Pipeline, Devon: Investigations in 2005–2007* Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeology Monog. **6**

Quinnell, H. 2014 'Neolithic and Bronze Age Pottery' in Joyce and Mudd 2014, 45–55

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land South of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2016 on land south of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter. A total of 22 trenches was excavated. The evaluation recorded a Middle Bronze Age ditch, which cut an earlier pit. Four further undated pits may also have been prehistoric in date. Four post-medieval/modern pits were also recorded.	
Project dates	22 February–2 March 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (JMHS 2006a); geophysical survey (Stratascan 2006); archaeological evaluation (JMHS 2006); archaeological excavation (JMHS 2010); heritage statement (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land South of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter	
Study area (m^2/ha)	6.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	SX 9573 9077	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Martin Gillard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter	Ceramics
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, scanned images of the primary site archive
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land South of the A379, Newcourt, Exeter: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **16176**		



N

0 1km

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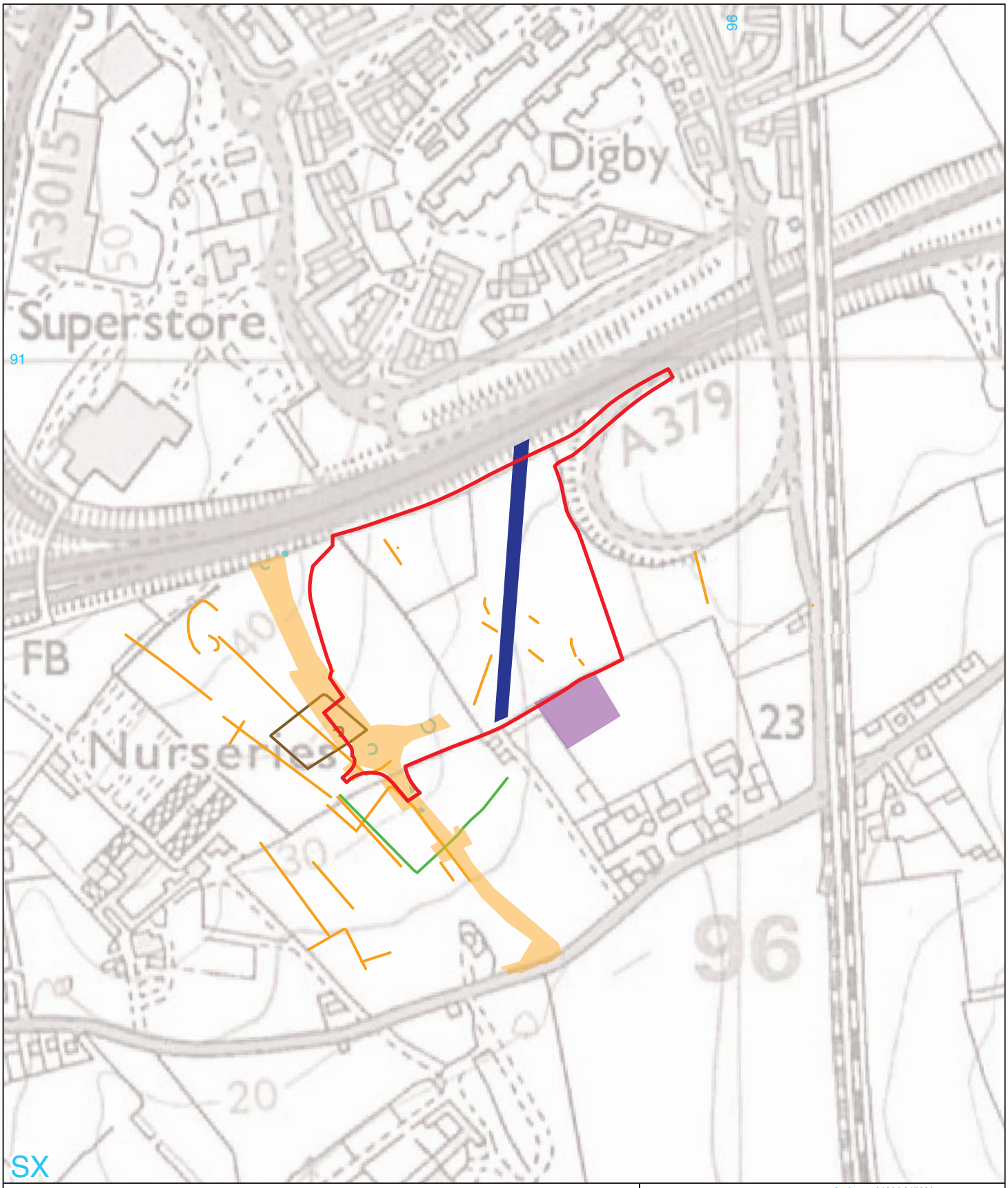
PROJECT TITLE
Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SO	*PROJECT NO.*	880091	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	DJB	*DATE*	09/03/2016	1
APPROVED BY	DE	*SCALE@A4*	1:25,000	



1. site
2. geophysical anomalies
3. enclosure and roundhouse (Bronze Age)
4. possible structures (Bronze Age)
5. possible outer enclosure (Bronze Age)
6. area of Iron Age roundhouse and associated features
7. pipeline

area of excavations and watching brief (JMHS 2010)

N

0 250m

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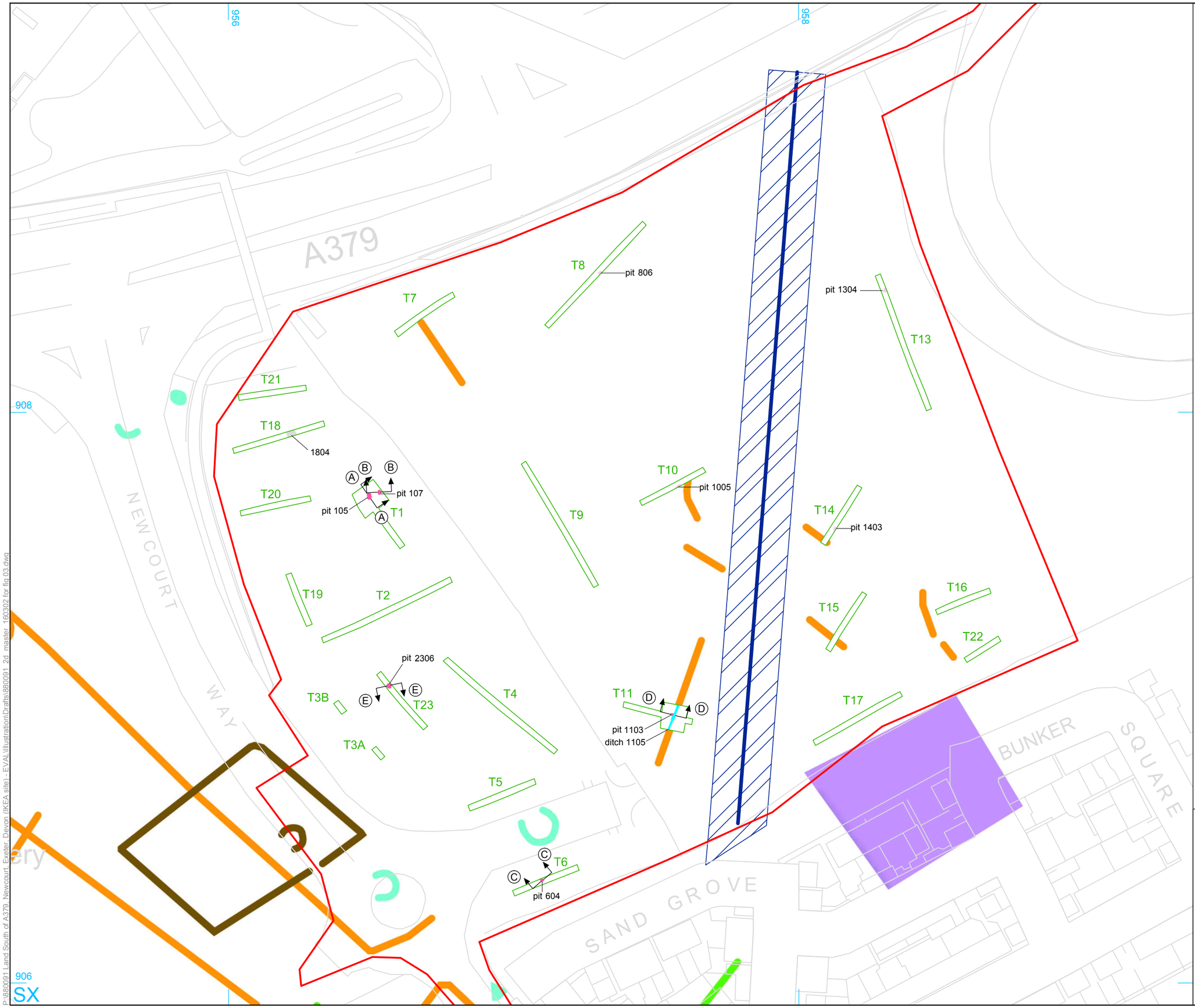
PROJECT TITLE
Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Previous archaeological investigations

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	880091	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/03/2016	2
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:5,000	



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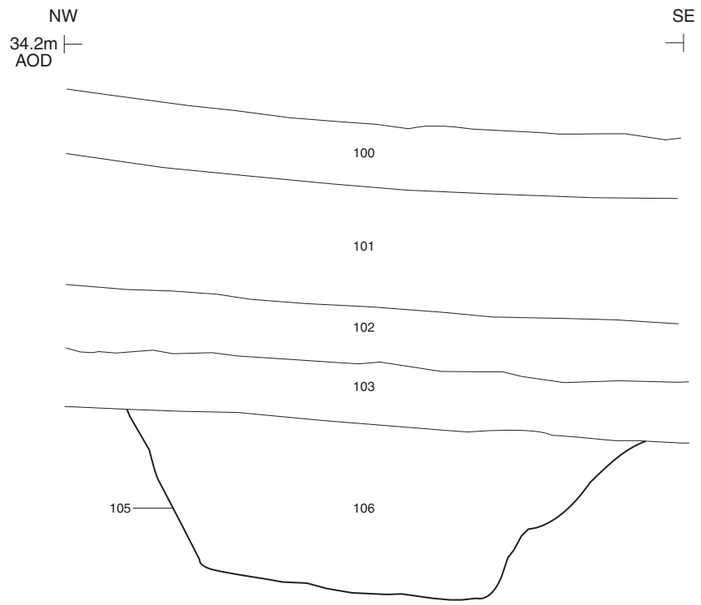
PROJECT TITLE
Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features, geophysical survey data and data from previous fieldwork

DRAWN BY	SO	PROJECT NO.	880091	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/03/2016	3
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:1,250	

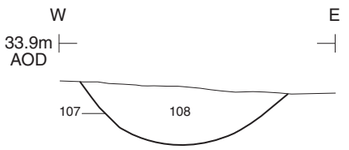
P:\880091 Land South of A379, Newcourt, Exeter, Devon (IKEA site) - EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\880091 2d master 160302 for fig 03.dwg

Section AA



Pit 105 looking north (scale 1m)

Section BB



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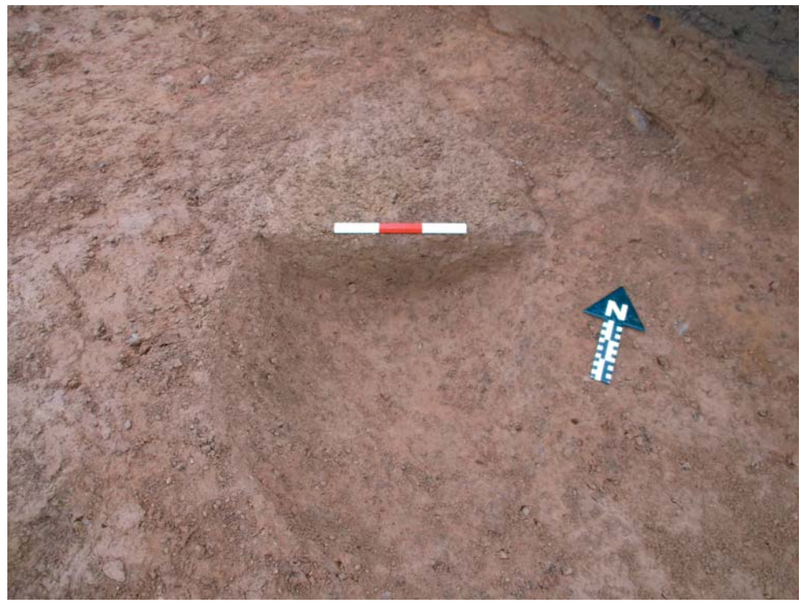

Pit 107 looking north (scale 0.3m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: sections and photographs

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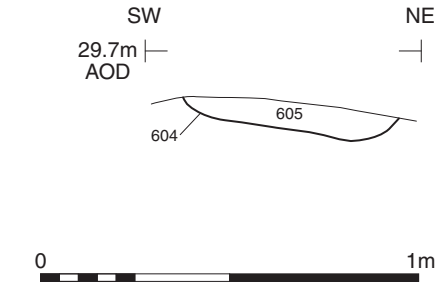
Section CC



Pit 604 looking north-west (scale 0.3m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: section and photograph

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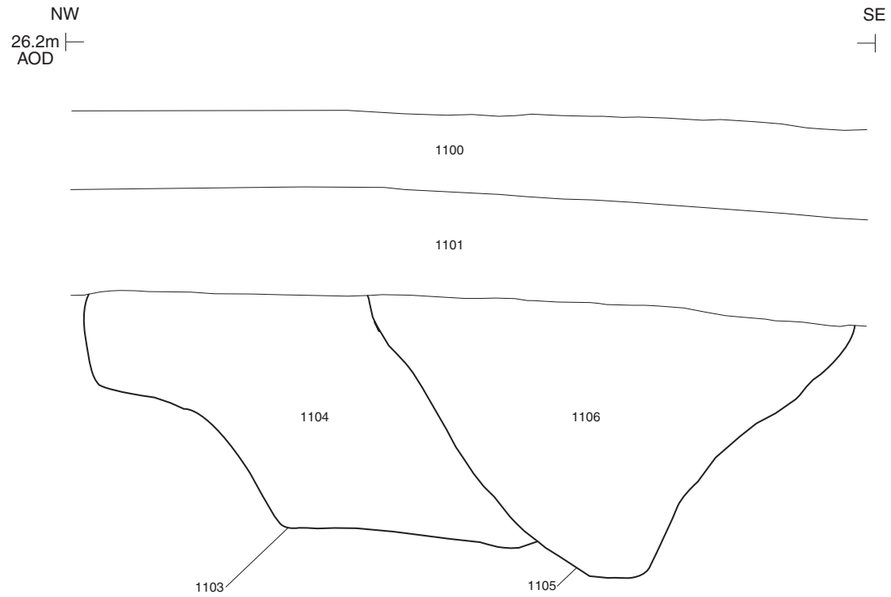
Section DD



Pit 1103 and ditch 1105 looking north-east (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	**DE**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

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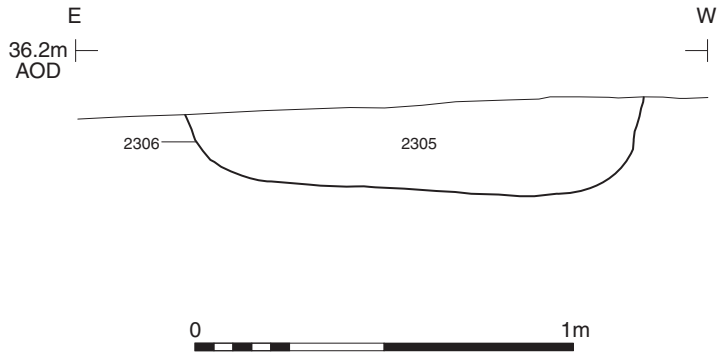

Pit 2306 looking south (scale 1m)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land south of A379, Newcourt, Exeter
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 23: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**SO**	*PROJECT NO.*	**880091**	*FIGURE NO.*
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APPROVED BY	**DE**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

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